Klove and WBFJ are both local Christian radios stations that greatly impact our family. They are all we listen to. How great it is to know the minds and hearts of our kids are not being exposed to vulgar language, commentaries that are not moral or grounded in truth, and music that fills their ears and minds with songs about sex, drugs, murder, adultery, depression, and crime in general.

It has come to my attention that the FCC is considering proposals that could have detrimental impact and long lasting implications. By imposing the proposed regulations, some of which include requiring advisory boards, increased station staffing, relocation of some stations, and imposing an open forum/public access midset (therefore taking away from "pulpit and mission") the government would only be moving more in the direction of a not-so-free nation. And can you imagine the overload of expenses on the stations that raise their own funding (that's right – not government funded)? Many would be forced to shut down - leaving my family with no choice of Christian radio. AND- leaving MORE people unemployed. Now, that's just what we need!

What about the first amendment – remember it? Freedom of religion? Last time I checked, Christianity was a religion but it seems the government more and more wants to deny Christians religious rights that are so vocally defended and demanded by other religions. One proposed variation would force stations to grant a certain amount of airtime to any group that requests it. Sort of like cable television systems making time available on "public access channels" (open forum style) But unlike public access channels, Christian Radio is a combination of pulpit and mission. The government cannot force messages from any pulpit (Christian or not), nor insist that Christian missionaries promote viewpoints contrary to the Gospel. The same way, it should not be forcing Christian Radio stations to allow non-Christian groups to deliver their messages from secular humanists, abortionists or atheists, etc. (Along the same lines, the government cannot force non-Christian groups to promote Christianity, or allow "air time" to people promoting beliefs that they do not support)

And what about freedom of speech? It's already not-so-free - let's not make it worse. Some of the proposals could give Christian Radio's opponents more power and ammunition to harass or even silence Gospel inspired voices. Adversaries could file complaints with the FCC against Christian Broadcasters who refuse to compromise on Gospel principles; any Christian Station that insists on only pure Gospel programming could be made to pay a high price for its refusal to yield airtime to those with other messages.

With the FCC considering a renewal procedure that would take renewalgranting power away from qualified civil servants when a Christian station (or any other such station), in good conscience, has kept its message pure and not allowed its facilities to be used to promulgate other messages. Instead of routine processing by civil servants, renewal applications would be subject to the often multi-year process of review by the politically-appointed FCC commissioners. Again, is this anything other than power hungry?????? Exactly what are we trying to do with our rights and freedom here? The government seems to want to revoke rights and freedoms and usurp more power under the guise of "making sure no one offends anyone else" or by "ensuring all groups are politically correct". I for one am weary of it.

Kelly Batten April 30, 2008